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Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association

P.O. BOX 768 PENSACOLA, FL 32591-0768 www.pcaraonline.com (850) 293-5345

June 5, 2007

WEAR TV-3 Attn: Carl Leahy P. O. Box 12278 Pensacola, FL 32581

Dear Mr. Leahy:

On behalf of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association (PCARA), I would like to say "THANK YOU" for co-sponsoring our Fourteenth Annual United Together for Non-Violence Day (The Big Cookout). Your generous donation enabled us to have a very successful event.

The message to replace violence and drug abuse with love, respect and unity was conveyed to over 4,200 people. Both young and old alike attended this awesome community event. The success of this event made the headlines of the Pensacola News Journal in both their Saturday and Sunday editions dated May 26, 2007 and May 27, 2007. The headlines read, "The Cookout Spreads Positive Message" and "Community Cookout Aims to Show Youths the Way Out of Poverty." See articles enclosed.

This could not have been accomplished without your support. It is truly remarkable when businesses like yours, reach out to help those who need our help the most, our youth and our community.

PCARA looks forward to your continued support and participation at next year's United Together for Non-Violence and a Drug Free Community (The Big Cookout).

Again, many thanks!

Sincerely,

Leroy E. Williams, Jr. President, PCARA

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Chris Hunter, 4, enjoys a hamburger Saturday during the cookout sponsored by Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association. John Blackie/jblackie@pnj.com Buy this photo

#### ABOUT PCARA

GOAL: Enrich lives of youths, socially and academically

PROGRAMS: Annual community cookout; athletic activities; performing arts classes; mentoring and after-school classes; and rap sessions

CONTACT: 293-5345

Published - May, 27, 2007

# Cookout spreads positive message

Youths warned about dangers of drugs, violence at event

Alvin Peabody apeabody@pnj.com

The fence around Legion Field Park was dotted with posters warning about the dangers of drugs and violence and touting the need to respect one another.

The Pensacola park was the scene of the 14th annual community cookout, where hundreds of area residents came Saturday to eat, browse vendors' exhibits and enjoy musical performances by several local gospel recording artists.

The cookout is one of many events sponsored by Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association aimed at bringing people together to help replace violence and drug abuse with love, respect and unity, said Leroy Williams, PCARA's president and founder.

"Our cookout has been very successful over the years because of the positiveness that it offers," Williams said.

Last year's event drew more than 3,800 people. This year's estimated attendance at the all-day cookout was expected to top 4,800, Williams said.

Zsykeria McIntyre, 13, led a seven-member Angels of Saints group in a "praise dance" performance.

"We want to show people that they can praise God in whatever way they choose," said Zsykeria, a member of the All Saints Holiness Church in Pensacola.

Elnora Smith, 71, stood in the middle of Legion Field and watched as several children played nearby. Her granddaughter, Shantay Harris, 14, was to participate in a dance routine with her group, TSD.

"Even though this event is mainly for the children, I come



STORY

every year because I want them to know that adults do support their success in life," Smith said.

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## **EXCELLENT!!!!**

Sun May 27, 2007 8:45 am

I would like to applaud, PCARA for the efforts that they put forth, for our young people. Our up and coming generation, needs our help for all the trials and tribulations that are facing them right now! So again Thanks PCARA for caring!! A job well done.

Posted by: MALAKEE









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WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Community Cookout.

WHEN: Noon to 6 p.m. today.

WHERE: Legion Field, between G and I streets, just north of Garden

Street.

Aside from a time to commemorate the U.S. men and women who died in military service to their country, Memorial Day weekend is the traditional kickoff for the summer season, and many people will be cooking out for family and friends.

It takes a lot of time and energy to have a family cookout. So imagine the effort -- and expense -- it takes to cook out for hundreds of people.

There will be a whole lot of cooking, eating and entertaining today at Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association's annual "United Together for a Nonviolent and Drug-Free" cookout.

Organizers have ordered 4,000 hamburgers and hot dogs. They have invited about 30 groups to perform, including local gospel-recording artist "Anew," and Roy Jones Jr.'s twin sons and their cousin, "3D," a hip-hop rap group. About 3,000 people showed up last year. They expect at least 4,000 to attend this year.

Besides free food and music, the big community cookout will have exhibits, guest speakers, storytellers, comedians and free giveaways.

The biggest change from the previous 13 years is the location.

Because of renovations at Terry Wayne Park on Jackson Street, today's cookout will be at Legion Field just north of Garden Street between G and I streets.

As founder and president of the PCARA, Leroy Williams for two decades has coordinated a variety of educational and social activities designed to help prevent drug and alcohol use and violence among our youth.

"This is what I live for -- this is my life," said Williams, 43.
"When it ended last year, we began preparing for this year."

The annual community cookout and association, which he founded in the late 1980s, are community-minded and community-driven events that show young people there is a way out of poverty and a life away from the dangers of the street.

More than 70 volunteers, many of them members of PCARA and the U.S. Marines Corps, give their time and energy to assist with setting up, cooking and serving food, and cleaning up afterward.

Even though the costs are enormous and the hard work tiring, Williams said he has never considered charging a fee for the cookout. He relies on donations, fundraisers and sponsors to provide the food and entertainment.

"We believe that if the community, businesses, families and friends can come together in a drug- and crime-free environment for one day we can make our community a better community to live in," Williams said. "Our goal is to replace violence and drug abuse by putting God first and practicing the principles of unity, love and respect for each other."

# **Article Comments**

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